GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4667
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
VACCINE/DRUG FOR AIDS
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;GANTA SRINIVASA RAO;GUNIPATI RAMAIAH;PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Scientists at ICMR have recently developed an anti-AIDS vaccine/drug to check AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Phase-II trials are going to be conducted at the National AIDS Research Institute;

(d) if so, the appropriate cost of the production of this vaccine/drug; and

(e) the time by which this vaccine/drug is likely to be made available in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) and b) : No Sir. However, the Ministry of health & Family welfare and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in December, 2000, with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to promote and accelerate efforts to develop an indigenous AIDS vaccine that will address the strains of the HIV-1 subtype C predominant in India.

The Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) based vaccine is being developed. It involves innumerable complex and complicated steps. The MVA based vaccine has yet not reached the stage of clinical trial. This work is being carried out by two ICMR institutions namely, National AIDS Research institute, Pune and National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata.

(c) the candidate vaccine once developed would go through pre-clinical, safety and toxicity studies to be followed by Phase-I, II and III trial in humans. The Phase I and Phase II trials will be carried out at National AIDS Research Institute(NARI), Pune.

(d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and ICMR have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative(IAVI) where the parties have agreed that all new patent and other new intellectual property rights to inventions arising from the programme shall belong jointly to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, ICMR and IAVIUnder this MOU it is assured that this vaccine shall be made available in Indian and neighbouring SAARC countries at an affordable cost.

(e) It is difficult to say anything at this stage. Vaccine can be considered for its introduction in the general public only after the successful Phase I, II and III trials.